

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 ACDA-07 IO-13 SAJ-01 /099 W

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R 161024Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5505

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 2997

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, FR, FT, XO

SUBJECT: FRENCH AMBASSADOR COMMENTS ON FRENCH MILITARY PRESENCE AND
LIKELY NAM SUMMIT CRITICISM OF FRENCH.

1. DURING CALL ON AUGUST 13, FRENCH AMBASSADOR ANTHONIOZ
TOLD AMBASSADOR THERE ARE FOUR POINTS ON WHICH FRENCH
EXPECT HARSH CRITICISM FROM NAM SUMMIT. THESE FOUR
ARE : (1) FRENCH NAVAL BASES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, E.G.,
CROZET, AMSTERDAM, KERUELEN; (2) CONTINUING FRENCH
PRESENCE IN DJIBOUTI; (3) FRENCH RETENTION OF MAYOTTE
WHEN COMORES RECEIVED INDEPENDENCE; AND (4) SALE OF
FRENCH NUCLEAR PLANTS TO SOUTH AFRICA.

2. ANTHONIOZ POINTED OUT THE FRENCH WOULD HAVE LEDT
DJIBOUTI SOME TIME AGO BUT FOR THE STRONG CONCERNS
ETHIOPIA HAD EXPRESSED TOWARD SUCH WITHDRAWAL BECAUSE OF
SOMALI TERRITORIAL CLAIMS. FRENCH NOW HOPE TO BE OUT
BY JANUARY 1977.

3. FRENCH AMBASSADOR DEFENDED FRENCH NAVAL PRESENCE
AS NECESSARY IN LIGHT OF GROWING SOVIET NAVAL PRESENCE
IN INDIAN OCEAN. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT FRANCE HAD
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ALSO FELT CONSTRAINED RECENTLY TO TRANSFER NAVAL UNITS

FROM ITS ATLANTIC FLEET TO THE MEDITERRANEAN BECAUSE OF
THE STRONG SOVIET NAVAL BUILDUP THERE.

4. IN A SPEARATE CONVERSATION WITH ITALIAN AMBASSADOR
FABBRICOTTI ON AUGUST 10, HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD
THE YUGOLSAVIANS WERE GOING TO INTRODUCE A MEDITERRANEAN
ZONE OF PEACE RESOLUTION SIMILAR TO SRI LANKA'S INDIAN
OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE PROPOSAL. HE COULDN'T UNDERSTAND
THE YUGOSLAV'S RATIONAL FOR SUCH A PROPOSITION SINCE
IT COULD EASILY WORK TO THEIR DETRIMENT IF WESTEN NAVIES
LEFT THE AREA AND THE SOVIETS REMAINED.
REED

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